

Silicon Times Report

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(Since 1987)

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- Domain Name Probe - CC #'s Exposed - END Spamming SPAM!
- Top Modem Co's Sued - Thumbs Plus 3.0g - Redneck Rampage
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Debit Cards a HIT!

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The Publisher, Staff & Editors

1987-1997

Florida Lotto - LottoMan v1.35

Results: 07/05/97: two of six numbers with no matches

From the Editor's Desk...

This will be a very short editorial. There is much to be said about the future of computing.. especially in the areas of 75Mhz and 83Mhz. Those are bus speeds above the standard 66Mhz. Using these speeds in conjunction with "upped" CPU speeds is called "overclocking". Can you imagine a 133Mhz Pentium zooming along at say.. 150? Or more? In the coming weeks we'll cover the pros and cons of overclocking. Its become quite popular and successful. I believe you'll enjoy this series io articles. It'll also carry some very valuable information about the latest "auto-config" and "soft-menu" config motherboards. No more bothersome jumpers or "pia' dipswitches. This "computing thing" .it keeps getting better and better.

Also, we'll be concentrating on Adobe's fine family of Graphical and Publishing products. As far as we are concerned, there's no finer than Adobe when it comes to Graphics and/or Publishing. Electronic or hardcopy, Adobe sets the standards by which all others are ultimately judged. This will be a highly informative series that'll take us right into the fall season.

Of Special Note:

<http://www.streport.com>
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STReport is now ready to offer much more in the way of serving the Networks, Online Services and Internet's vast, fast growing site list and userbase. We now have our very own WEB/FTP Site, do stop by and have a look see. Since We've received numerous requests to receive STReport from a wide variety of Internet addressees, we were compelled to put together an Internet distribution/mailing list for those who wished to receive STReport on a regular basis, the file is ZIPPED, then UUENCODED. Unfortunately, we've also received a number of opinions that the UUENCODING was a real pain to deal with. You'll be pleased to know you are able to download STReport directly from our very own FTP SERVER or WEB Site. While there, be sure to join our STR AutoMailer list which allows a choice of either ASCII or Acrobat PDF.

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STReport Headline News

LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS

Weekly Happenings in the Computer World

Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

Amelio OUT as Apple Chief

Gilbert F. Amelio is out as Apple Computer Inc.'s president and CEO. The struggling computer maker says Fred Anderson, executive vice president and chief financial officer, will assume responsibility for the company's day-to-day operations until a replacement can be found. Apple also says that co-founder Steve Jobs will assume an expanded role as a key advisor to Apple's board and executive management team. Amelio joined Apple in February 1996, replacing embattled chief Michael Spindler. Despite slashing the company's workforce by 30 percent and trimming its product line he has been unable to stem the firm's losses. Apple's stock recently hit a 12 year low.

Another victim of the shakeup is Ellen Hancock, Apple's technology director, who is following Amelio out the door. "In recent months, Apple has made significant progress in addressing the crises which were threatening its viability," says Edgar S. Woolard Jr., Apple's board director and chairman of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. "In pursuit of the best interest of our shareholders and our customers, we now want to move forward and return the company to growth and sustainable profitability. We believe that with a customer focused CEO and Apple's product and technology portfolio, the company will have the necessary ingredients to return to success."

Poll Finds Favor for Net Rules

In what is certain to make online free speech advocates squirm, a new poll finds nearly a third of Americans believe the First Amendment goes too far in guaranteeing free speech and almost half favor government restrictions of speech on the Internet. The Chicago Tribune reports the poll, conducted for it by Market Shares Corp., surveyed 1,001 adults and has a margin of error of plus/minus three percent.

Of those surveyed, says the Reuter News Service:

- '• 27 percent said the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution went too far in the rights it guarantees.
- '• 55 percent said the guarantees were about right.
- '• 8 percent said the amendment did not go far enough.
- '• 11 percent said they did not know.

And on the question of whether the government should restrict the kind of material that can be transmitted on the Internet:

- '• 50 percent said the government should.
- '• 31 percent said it should not.
- '• 08 percent did not know.
- '• And 12 percent were not familiar with the Internet.

On other free-speech related issues, the Tribune poll also reported 58 percent of those surveyed said radio personalities who use implicit or explicit sexual expressions should not be allowed on the air, 35 percent said they should be allowed and seven percent said they did not know. Regarding the rights of anti-government groups, 52 percent polled said groups advocating overthrow of the government should not be allowed to make their views known to the general public, 40 percent said they should and eight percent did not know.

Publisher Note; (Who REALLY took this Poll?? .Control Freaks Anonymous?)

Germany Passes Net Data Law

A measure to keep out cyberspace smut and Nazi propaganda has been passed by German lawmakers, but critics are saying the law is too vague on what responsibilities online services had for content they didn't create or control. Associated Press writer Tony Czuczka, reporting from Bonn, says the law, which also aims at boosting electronic commerce, penalizes online providers for providing a venue for material that is illegal in Germany even if it originated beyond Germany's borders.

Saying children must be protected against material deemed offensive, research/technology minister Juergen Ruetters told the wire service, "That applies even to a network that knows no national borders. The Internet is not outside the reach of the law." He added the new law also clarifies key legal issues regarding commerce on the Internet.

AP says this makes Germany the first country to set rules for so-called digital signatures, codes used to protect Internet communications and give them the status of a legal document. The law gained final approval in the upper house of parliament, the Bundesrat, only six months after the government proposed it. It takes effect Aug. 1. However, attorney Christopher Kuner, a Frankfurt specialist on cyberspace issues, told Czuczka the law was too vague on what liability online providers have, that "it leaves a lot of things open."

Also, the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany said liability for online services will have to be tested by court rulings, which "may cause prudent investors to hesitate." The new law says online providers can be prosecuted for offering a venue for content illegal in Germany if they do so knowingly and it is "technically possible and reasonable" to prevent it. This could apply to World Wide Web sites, chat rooms, bulletin boards and similar exchanges originating in other countries and offered by German online services without direct control over their content.

Commercial services like CompuServe and America Online have maintained they provide only a connection like a telephone company, which is not held responsible for everything its customers say on the phone. Czuczka comments, "German prosecutors have been in the forefront of attempts to rein in the globe-spanning free-for-all on the Internet." He notes a leftist politician, Angela Marquardt, was charged with helping others learn how to commit crimes by linking her Internet site to an electronic magazine that included articles on how to build bombs and derail trains. A Berlin court has cleared Marquardt, without delving into the issue of how courts should deal with material banned in Germany but stored on a computer somewhere else.

Publisher Note; (Speaking of Control Freaks.)

France Applauds U.S. Net Policy

While applauding President Bill Clinton for a laissez-faire policy on Internet commerce, French officials says they still worry that young people and consumers should be protected. As reported earlier, Clinton says he wants the U.S. to work with the World Trade Organization to create a "free trade zone" for Internetcommerce.

In Paris recently, Junior Minister for Industry Christian Pierret told the Reuter News Service, "We agree with the United States that we must avoid holding back (Internet) development by imposing a paralysing regulatory scheme, but we must not ignore the serious difficulties that nations are encountering in attempting to assure the protection of consumers and to safeguard fundamental ethical principles, particularly with regard to young people."

Reuters notes U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky later has said she hoped to start with a basic group of countries -- including the European Union -- to secure agreement on a hands-off policy on internetcommerce and build global support from there. Pierret told the wire service France wanted to be an active participant in the formulation of European and international policy on Internet and would make its views known at a coming meeting in Bonn on global information networks. He added Paris hopes the European Union will adopt a common position on the technology, saying the Internet would "without doubt be one of the most important elements of economic growth and job creation."

Europeans Agree About Net

Meeting in Bonn, Germany, this week, European governments have agreed to take a largely hands-off approach to regulating the Internet, leaving it up to industry to police its own online actions. However, says The Associated Press, the agreement by officials from 29 European nations also sketched out a role for government in ensuring the Internet's development.

The wire service adds, "The non-binding resolution approved at a conference here borrowed from differing approaches toward Internet commerce recently adopted by the United States and Germany." As reported, President Clinton last week said the Internet should be a "global free-trade zone" where there is little interference by governments. The United States was among non-European nations invited to the Europeans' conference as guests. Meanwhile, Germany has passed a law that attempts to give a legal framework to the transmission of data on the Internet.

The Europeans' so-called "Bonn Declaration" says expansion of the Internet "must essentially be market-led and left to private initiative." At the same time, it says, governments should work toward providing the frameworkfor electronic commerce and toward "stimulating new services." Speaking with reporters later, U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley said he is pleased with the "strong statement" by European officials that "the private sector must lead on so many of these (Internet) issues, and government should take a step back."

Reporter Andrew Gray of the Reuter News Service says Daley acknowledged there were differences on some issues -- particularly over how to regulate encryption technology - - but said these were far outweighed by theconsensus on most points among ministers and industry leaders at the Bonn conference. Said Daley, "I think it's been a huge success because we seem to be in agreement on about 98 percent of the principles."

EU Pledges No New Net Biz Taxes

A European Union-sponsored conference on Internet commerce has agreed in principle not to impose new trade barriers or taxes on companies or individuals doing business in cyberspace. But the Reuter News Service reports that the conference, which was attended by 40 government ministers from Europe, the U.S., Japan and Canada, appeared to make little progress on how to regulate the encryption technology required for transaction security on the Internet.

"The ministers agreed Internet regulation should be led by private enterprise rather than governments and embraced some ideas proposed by U.S. President Bill Clinton last week, but stopped short of advocating the U.S. proposal in full," notes Reuter. "We have agreed there should be no discriminatory taxes and laws placed on the Internet," German Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt, host of the two-day conference, told Reuter. "The ministers have agreed that there should only be state regulation where absolutely necessary and private initiative and market forces should have as much room as possible."

Justice Probes Net Naming

An antitrust investigation into the business of registering Internet addresses has been launched by the U.S. Justice Department. Reporter Aaron Pressman of the Reuter News Service notes Network Solutions Inc., the leading registration company, has revealed it had received a request for documents from the Justice Department as part of the investigation. A Justice Department spokeswoman today told the wire service, "We're looking at the possibility of anti-competitive practices in the Internet address registration industry."

Of course, all Internet addresses end with a short designation, usually three letters -- such as .com, .org, .edu, .net -- known as a top-level domain. Herndon, Va.-based Network Solutions has a monopoly to register Internet addresses in the most popular domains under a contract with The National Science Foundation. "The company," says Pressman, "has struggled to cope with surging demand for Internet addresses, dozens of lawsuits arising from alleged trademark infringements in address names and difficulty collecting fees from some Internet users. In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in preparation for a public stock offering, Network Solutions said it received on June 27 a 'civil investigative demand' from the Justice Department."

Pressman says the demand requested documents and information from the company and its corporate parent, Science Applications International Corp. This follows a private lawsuit filed against the company in March alleging violations of the Sherman Antitrust Act. In its filing, the company said it is not aware of the scope or nature of the investigation. In its initial public offering, the company plans to raise \$35 million, but has not revealed how many shares would be sold or at what price.

As reported, a group of Internet organizations and companies has proposed a new plan for assigning addresses through at least 28 competing registrars, but the plan may not go into effect. "The federal government has established an interagency task force to examine possible solutions," Pressman reports. "Last week, the Commerce Department asked for comments from the public on the issue."

NEW LINKS LS 98 IN STORES

Access Software's newest edition of its award winning LINKS LS is now in

release and turning a quick profit for software stores everywhere. The first production run was entirely presold. "With the way LS 98 is selling right out of the 'chute it looks like we'll keep our production facilities going full time, day and night," said Frank Bone, fulfillment manager for Access Software.

The new LINKS LS features "look-ahead rendering" which has greatly reduced the waiting time between screen redraws to almost instantaneous. Its stunningly beautiful water reflections and improved sky panoramas recreate a beautiful golf day right on your PC. With LS '98 also comes the capability to have up to eight internet players at one time and multiplayer gaming over the net and lan has been greatly enhanced.

Other new features include environmental animations such as waving pin flags, flying airplanes, balloons and blimps; improved haze and fog weather conditions as well as increased realism in terrain rendering. New shot formats include Scramble and Alternate in addition to Stroke, Skins, Match and Best Ball. Two additional Golfers (6 in all) Smart Camera views off-line Tournament play and other golfers on screen are some of the 25 new features of LS'98.

LS '98 is now a native Windows 95 and NT (4.0 or higher) application with full Direct X support. As always, Access provides Toll Free support for all its products.

Anti-Virus Upgrade Offered

TouchStone Software Corp. has introduced a new version of its PC-cillin anti-virus software. The Huntington Beach, California, company says PC-cillin 3.0 offers users 100 percent protection from all types of viruses, as well as free Internet virus pattern updates for the life of the product and Microsoft Office 97 compatibility. According to TouchStone, new patent-pending MacroTrap technology protects users from both known and unknown strains of destructive macro viruses, which now account for more than 80 percent of all virus infections.

"Computer viruses have become so clever and sophisticated, users need to prepare themselves with the best protection they can get their hands on and keep that protection constantly updated for it to be effective," says Larry Jordan, Touchstone's president and CEO. PC-cillin 3.0 is scheduled to become available in early August for \$44.95.

Digital Camera Market Continues to Soar

Worldwide shipments of digital still cameras will reach nearly 10 million units in 2001, finds Lyra Research, Inc. The research firm, based in Newtonville, Massachusetts, projects that the market will advance at a compound annual growth rate of slightly more than 58 percent over the next seven years. "Total shipments will rise to more than 9.8 million units in 2001 from 990,000 in 1996, as the consumer and general business markets for the technology catch fire, driven by a host of new applications and falling digital camera prices," says Steve Hoffenberg, director of Lyra's Digital Photography Systems Advisory Service.

According to Lyra, revenue generated by digital camera sales will expand to more than \$3.6 billion in 2001, up from less than one third of that amount -- \$984 million -- in 1996, according to Hoffenberg. "Thus far, the market for digital cameras has been largely confined to professional photography and vertical niche business applications," notes Hoffenberg. "But that is about to change. Beginning late this year, the consumer market will start

to open up, as users of conventional film photography will finally have reasons to purchase digital cameras."

Leading Modem Makers Sued

Seven leading modem manufacturers have been named in a patent infringement suit filed by General Patent Corporation International of Monsey, New York. The suit seeks to enforce four of GPC's patents, which cover specific aspects of PC Card modems, the credit-card-sized modems primarily used in notebook and other types of portable computers. The alleged infringers are Hayes Microcomputer Products Inc., Boca Research Inc., Xircom, Inc., MaxTech Corp., Archtek America Corp., New Media Corp and Cardinal Technologies Inc., which was recently acquired by Hayes. The suit was filed in U.S. District Court for the Central District of California in Orange County. In March, GPC filed a patent infringement suit against IBM Corp. and U.S. Robotics Corp. for alleged infringement of the same PC Card patents. "Every company manufacturing or selling PC Cards owes it to themselves to take a close look at our patents and consider taking a license," says Alexander Poltorak, GPC's chairman and CEO. The patents in question are U.S. Patent No. 4,603,320 ("Connector Interface"), U.S. Patent No. 4,543,450 ("Integrated Connector and Modem"), U.S. Patent No. 4,686,506 ("Multiple Connector Interface"), and U.S. Patent No. 4,972,470 ("Programmable Connector").

Trend Micro Sues British Firm

Anti-virus software publisher Trend Micro Inc. is asking a federal court to stop Integralis Ltd., a British company, and its U.S. subsidiary Integralis Inc., from infringing on its patent covering virus detection techniques for data sent over the Internet and electronic mail. In legal documents filed yesterday in the U.S. District Court for Western Washington in Seattle, Trend Micro identified Integralis' MIMESweeper and WebSweeper as products covered by the patent and asked the court to stop both Integralis companies from selling the infringing products to customers in the U.S. The lawsuit asks for damages, including trebled damages for willful infringement, and preliminary and permanent injunctions. The alleged infringement concerns U.S. Patent No. 5,623,600, which was issued to Trend Micro on April 22 and involves techniques used to protect large computer networks from viruses. The patented technology is used in Trend Micro's InterScan VirusWall product. It is also used in the server-based anti-virus products of a number of other vendors that have signed licensing deals with Trend Micro. The patent also applies to certain virus detection methods recently incorporated into some firewalls.

"This action is part of our ongoing effort to protect our intellectual property," says Robert Lowe, general counsel for Cupertino, California-based Trend Micro. "The federal government has determined that our innovation in this area deserves patent protection. Our business is being damaged illegally every day that this infringement continues. This is the only way to enforce our rights." In May, Trend Micro sued its two largest competitors, Symantec Corp. and McAfee Associates Inc. for alleged patent infringement. That lawsuit, which remains pending, cited corporate anti-virus products such as McAfee's WebShield and GroupShield, as well as Symantec's Norton Antivirus for Internet Email Gateways, as infringing products. Trend Micro maintains the Antivirus Support Center on the World Wide Web at <http://www.antivirus.com>.

Stop Spamming Spam, Hormel Asks

Hormel Foods Corp. is tired of hearing the trademark for its famous canned

meat product -- Spam -- being used online and in the press as a pejorative for junk e-mail. While the company has not filed suit, it has asked the nation's largest bulk e-mailer, Philadelphia-based Cyber Promotions Inc., to stop using the term. However, Cyber Promotions founder Sanford Wallace -- sometimes known as "Spamford" -- tells The Associated Press the company will continue using the word on its Internet site. Says Wallace, "The term 'spam' is part of the vocabulary of 25 million Internet users. We didn't believe it's trademark infringement to use a slang word," adding he doubts the term "spam" would be confused with the food, Spam. AP notes a federal court in New York last year rejected Hormel's trademark infringement case against Jim Henson Productions for calling a pig-like muppet "Spa'am" in a recent movie.

Incidentally, Wallace says he believes Spam became slang with a skit from the British comedy group, Monty Python's Flying Circus. In that skit, the word is repeated until one of the actors is driven crazy, he said. While Hormel wants Cyber Promotions to stop using the word Spam, it hasn't asked the company to stop using the term "spamming," a slang word that denotes mass junk e-mailing. Hormel spokesman V. Allan Krjeci says in a statement, "We want them to recognize that Spam has been a widely known Hormel Foods trademark for 60 years and they are not authorized to use that trademark for their commercial use." Also Austin, Minn., -based Hormel is asking Cyber Promotions to stop displaying cans of Spam when promoting the bulk e-mail business.

Prof Sees Worker Privacy Threat

Corporations are using advancing technology to spy on workers faster than the law can uphold privacy rights, says a University of Illinois legal scholar. United Press International, reporting from Champaign, Illinois, quotes a new study by law professor Matthew Finkin as saying employers are steadily narrowing their workers' legal "reasonable expectations" of privacy because of the nature of computers and other new technologies. Writing in the Chicago Kent Law Review, Finkin said corporations are taking advantage of this phenomenon to steadily narrow what courts are willing to deem as "outrageous" -- and therefore illegal - monitoring of workers' activities both on and off the job.

Finkin notes courts have ruled it is not an invasion of an employee's privacy to read the employee's personal e-mail, peek into restrooms with video cameras or interrogate an employee in a locked room about the details of her sex life. With the advent of computers, he says, "as the worker watches the display terminal, the terminal can, in effect, watch the employee," thereby narrowing the employee's "reasonable expectation" of privacy. The deck is stacked against employees, he believes, by an antiquated body of U.S. law that is designed to protect corporations from government intrusion.

"Liberty in the workplace," Finkin writes, "is conceived in terms of the employer's freedom from state control, in which the employee's freedom from employer control is, at best, derivative," adding European laws show it is possible to strike a better balance between privacy and the needs of employers.

Credit Card Numbers Exposed

Hundreds of ESPN Sportszone and NBA.com Web site users have received e-mail claiming their credit card numbers have been exposed to unauthorized access, reports The New York Times. In Thursday's edition, the paper said the messages were signed by "an anonymous organization seeking to make the

Internet a safe place for the consumer to do business." The messages included the last eight digits of each recipient's credit card number, the newspaper stated. Both sites are operated by Starwave Corp. A Starwave spokesman confirmed to the Times that system security had been compromised and that the files of 2,397 customers were potentially exposed. The company added that none of the card numbers have been misused. The sites have been taken offline until an investigation has been completed, the newspaper said.

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A T T E N T I O N-A T T E N T I O N-A T T E N T I O N

Shareware Treasure Chest STR Feature

"The Latest & Greatest"

Shareware Treasure Chest

By Lloyd E. Pulley
lepulley@streport.com

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
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Quicktime Plug-in Version 2.1.2	7/01/97	869kb	Freeware
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Allows you to view quicktime movies (.MOV) in your Web Browser.

Home Page Site - <http://quicktime.apple.com/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
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CD Wizzard 32-bit 4.31	7/05/97	.32mb	Shareware \$19.95
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Wizzard CD Audio Player for Windows has all the functions of a home CD player plus many, many more! It saves the disc and tracks names in its database. CD Wizzard has a full 3D look that is totally customizable. In icon mode, the icon is updated with the disc and track time. There is a full help file that describes all features of CD Wizzard.

Home Page Site - <http://www.bfmsoft.com/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
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Becky! Internet Mail for Windows 95 Version 1.21	7/03/97	1,219kb	Shareware 40.00
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Becky! is a multi-featured E-mail client specialized for Windows 95 and the Internet. You will find many features which are expected for an Internet E-mail software, and some of them would be beyond your expectation.

Home Page Site - <http://www.rimarts.co.jp/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
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Beatnik Plug-in Version 1.15	07/01/97	2,395kb	Freeware
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A driver which manages the playback of RMF and other audio files within Web browsers. The greatest strengths of the Beatnik Plug-in are its high fidelity and its potential for interactivity. The sound quality is comparable to high-end PC wavetable sound cards even though the processing is entirely software-based. The potential for interactivity results from Beatnik's support of a comprehensive set of JavaScript functions, which allow for a richer and more personalized musical experience than other multimedia delivery solutions. Beatnik allows a Web page to play music not only on opening, but also on an event such as a "mouse click" or "mouse over." These events can also trigger individual notes, sampled voices, or sound effects; start or stop music; and change tempo, volume, pitch, or mix. This is revolutionary in that it allows and even encourages direct musical interactions with Web pages, instead of the current use of the Internet as a playback-only system.

Home Page Site - <http://www.headspace.com/beatnik/plugin/index.html>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
ThumbsPlus Version 3.0g	7/03/97	3,021kb	Shareware \$60.00

ThumbsPlus is a graphic file viewer, locator and organizer which simplifies the process of finding and maintaining graphics, clip-art files, fonts and animations. It displays a small image (thumbnail) of each file. You can use ThumbsPlus to browse, view, edit, crop, launch external editors, and copy images to the clipboard. This update has many bug fixes.

Home Page Site - <http://www.cerious.com/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Thing Viewer 32-bit preview release plug-in	07/06/97	.32mb	Free

Allows you to view multimedia content created with the ThingMaker. Basically, Things are rich multimedia objects. They have a series of attributes that you can change via simple menus and mouse clicks. ThingMaker gives you the power to "Make Things Do Things" in an easy-to-use drag-and-drop authoring environment. No programming knowledge is required on your part. Things can be created with images, animations or sounds. ThingMaker promises the functionality of Macromedia Director as well as the ability to assign copyright information and restrict images from being downloaded -- all for a little more than 10% of Directors' cost.

Home Page Site - <http://www.thingworld.com/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
VirusSafe FireWall Version 2.50	7/07/97	216kb	Shareware

Uses a full 32-bit, NCSA certified anti-virus engine to scan EXE, COM, DOC, XLS and ZIP files, even in MIME and UUencoded E-Mail attachments. VirusSafe FireWall provides real-time scanning of FTP, SMTP and HTTP file transfers. It provides full protection from all viruses, including macro viruses, even in Office 97 files. In addition, VirusSafe FireWall uses an advanced engine to protect the network from known and unknown hostile Java applets and ActiveX controls. Advanced configuration options allow you to

control what actions are taken when an infected file is encountered.

Home Page Site - <http://www.eliashim.com/firewall.html>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
TrueStream 32-bit 1.1 plug-in	07/06/97	N/A	Free

If watching videos over the 'net reminds you of sitting on the airport taxiway, then you're ready for TrueStream Video, Motorola's new streaming video software. With TrueStream you can start viewing videos in moments, not minutes.

Home Page Site - <http://www.mot.com/MIMS/ISG/Products/video/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Cryptext Version 2.32	7/05/97	83kb	Freeware

Little encryption and deencryption program. Works together with Windows Explorer. Very small, but really good.

Home Page Site - <http://www.pcug.org.au/~njpayne/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
IBM Internet Connection Phone 32-bit 2.01 beta 1	07/04/97	2.60mg	Freeware

Here's a new version of Internet Connection Phone with better voice quality and support for Interest Groups (Topics). This version is compatible with the previous version and lets you talk with users who use either this version, or the older version. Internet Connection Phone lets you talk, send data and work collaboratively all on a single telephone line. IBM's easy to use Internet Connection Phone is the first Internet phone to support the use of speaker phones with full duplex capability and echo suppression, thus providing you with high voice quality. This version supports 2 codecs, GSM-VQ which is a high quality GSM that lets you work on 486/66MHz machines and G723-6.3kbps which gives you a better voice quality on 586/100MHz machines. In fact, the quality is comparable to the best cellular systems available today.

Home Page Site - <http://www.ics.raleigh.ibm.com/ics/icphone.htm>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Multiple Choice Test Generator Version 1.0	7/07/97	1,731kb	Shareware \$5.00

A tool which allows teachers and others to write and print multiple choice tests. It has the capability to allow teachers to administer multiple choice tests both in printed form or on the computer directly. Tests administered on the computer are graded automatically. Both a raw score and a percentage score are calculated. For each question entered in the test creation mode, up to four possible answer choices are available. There is no limit to the number of questions allowed for each test.

Home Page Site - <http://www.eagle.ca/~hsteve/powers.html>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Extreme Assault	7/07/97	13.00mb	Commercial Demo

If you are looking for a good adrenaline rush, then you're sure to enjoy this intense action game from Blue Byte. Aliens have secretly set up operations on Earth and it's up to you to put a stop to their sinister plans. Blow 'em away with your Sioux AH-23, a high tech attack helicopter, and the T1, the next generation battle tank. Almost 20 different types of tenacious and cunning opponents will be gunning for you from the air and the ground. Increase your killing power and strengthen your defenses with bonuses found in secret passages and hidden rooms. Experience awesome real time 3-D graphics as you journey through mountain ravines, subterranean caves, Inca ruins and underground alien complexes. This breathtaking, lifelike world will unfold before you smoothly and quickly, thanks to a highly advanced 3-D graphics engine that does not require any accelerator cards (although the game has support for 3Dfx Voodoo Graphics based cards).

Home Page Site - <http://www.bluebyte.com/us/products/ea/ea.htm>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Debt Analyzer Version 2.5	7/06/97	1,500kb	Shareware \$10.00

Designed to help people get out of debt through the most efficient means possible. It calculates three different payoff scenarios: highest rate, smallest balance, and smallest (balance to monthly ratio). The user can apply all three and see which one provides the best way of getting out of debt while paying the least amount of interest in the shortest possible time. You must enter the name, balance, interest rate, and minimum monthly payment for all your outstanding debts. You also have the ability to put in a delayed start time for those debts you are not currently making payments on such as those "no payments till 98" deals on new cars. You also enter any extra money you have to apply towards paying off your debts. It then calculates how you should apply your payments so you can get out of debt through the quickest means possible.

Home Page Site - <http://www.magicnet.net/~seren/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Mini Notetab 32-bit 2.63	7/07/97	.44mb	Freeware

Mini Notepad is not just another Windows Notepad replacement! It is a feature-rich program with a selection of original productivity tools that you will find in no other editor. Mini Notepad has been designed to use a minimum amount of Windows system resources so you can safely keep the editor open all the time. The program is capable of opening a very large number of files (the actual limit is determined by the amount of free system resources). Each document is displayed on a tabbed page making it easy to switch between them. A separate window, called the Document Selector, makes it easy to find a specific document when a large number of them are open.

Home Page Site -
<http://www.unige.ch/sciences/terre/geologie/fookes/mininote.htm>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Norton Anti-Virus Montly Update Version July	7/01/97	1,200kb	Freeware

July 1997 Definition Update for Norton Antivirus

Home Page Site - <http://www.symantec.com/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
WarSport 32-bit beta	7/07/97	N/A	Free

This new online game is something of a cross between Command and Conquer and a futuristic sports game. The game is set within an arena and is played in two ten minute halves. The field is divided into eight pie shaped slices, one for each player. Up to eight players may participate but only two are required to play. At their disposal, players will have several types of units ranging from invisible spies to fast riders to powerful boomers. Each player also has a comcen (communications center) within their slice of the field that it must protect. Destruction of the comcen means elimination for a player.

Home Page Site - <http://www.warsport.com/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Rule Organiser Version 2.14	7/06/97	1,248kb	Freeware

A simple to use Rules Organiser that allows you to simply change from one set of rules to another in Westwood Studio's Command & Conquer Red Alert and Red Alert Counterstrike.. This gives you things like TeslaTanks, FireBreathingDogs, Crazy Crates etc...

Home Page Site - <http://pages.infinet.net/mclarry/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
SecurityPlus 32-bit 4.02	7/07/97	2.00mb	Shareware \$29.95

File viewer with on-the-fly encryption/decryption. Supports 24 different file formats including Animated GIF files. Zoom, Full view, Auto-Hide, JPG options, File Info including CRC, Full privacy of images and any other files, runs in the tray, +more. One other unique option, Secure Access, will encrypt entire programs. By using this option you may prevent total access to items such as e-mail, company accounting records, programming source files and image files. File Formats Supported: *.iff, *.lbm, *.gif, *.png, *.gem, *.img, *.cut, *.tif, *.jpg, *.mac, *.msp, *.art, *.pic, *.hrz, *.ras, *.tga, *.bmp, *.dib, *.emf, *.rle, *.wmf, *.wpg and *.pcx. Animated GIF files.

Home Page Site - <http://www.softbytelabs.com/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Multi Program Launcher Version 1.01s	7/06/97	151kb	Shareware \$10.00

A small (36Kb), fully configurable, easy to use, but very powerful Win95/NT notify bar program launcher. It is accessed via the world icon in the notify bar region, one click and you have full access to the power of MPL, literally at your finger tips. It was designed to run multiple programs from one menu entry, as well as to keep all your most used short cuts, in one place for easy access. You can run files via file association, or just by including the full path and executable filename, you also have various switches to display the windows in various styles (i.e. hidden, minimized, maxmized, etc..), as well as access to a switch which allows you to run specific programs in a default directory for even more flexibility. Depending on your screen resolution, you can have up to forty six viewable menu entries on screen, and to get around this paltry restriction, I have also incorporated an option to create up to a maximum of 65535 submenus, for those other important menu entries.

Home Page Site - <http://homepages.enterprise.net/cwood/mpprog.html>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
HotDog 32-Bit 4.0 beta preview 1.01	7/07/97	4.40mb	Shareware \$99.95

A really good editor. It has a ton of features like floating toolbars, long file names, Style Sheets, Dynamic Dialogue Builder, Dynamic Button Builder , Massive Plug-In Support, On-the-fly Image Conversion, Create Gif89a Animations, and much more. New features include:

- '• New super fast drag and drop interface
- '• Wizards for advanced HTML functions
- '• Intelligent documents (with error hints)
- '• The Power of all new Supertoolz plugins

Home Page Site - <http://www.sausage.com/hotdog32.htm>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
CircSolver Circuit Analysis Version 1.1	7/07/97	2,043kb	Demo \$65.00

CircSolver can analyze any arbitrary analog circuit by deriving Transfer Functions, generating Bode Plots, and plotting the time-domain response of circuits to user-designed Input Signals. CircSolver can even plot the response of circuits with multiple sources and with different Input Signals applied to each source. The application contains an integrated circuit editor with a graphical user interface, multiple document interface, dockable toolbars, right-click menu, context sensitive help, and advanced editing features like unlimited undo/redo and smart mouse cursors.

Home Page Site - <http://www.micronation.com/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
MidiMaster 32-bit 7.1	7/07/97	1.00mb	Shareware \$20

MidiMaster is a multimedia player for Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0 that supports MID, RMI, AVI, QuickTime and WAV formats. It is not only a media player but also a media file organizer. It is specially designed for those who like a desktop media player which brings convenience whenever they play and manage their beloved media files. MidiMaster runs on both Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0 as it provides specific Windows 95 GUI features. Also, users can either minimize MidiMaster to taskbar or shrink it to the TaskTray of Windows 95. MidiMaster also provides library functions for managing or categorizing media files. It has many extensive functions which make media files playing extremely simple and controllable. There are many more functions available to make your life of playing media files easier.

Home Page Site - <http://www.cs.ust.hk/~paul/mm/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
SMPTE Time Calculator Version 2.1	7/06/97	713kb	Freeware

Time Calculator 2.0D is a time calculator. SCalc 2.0 supports both standard time (hh:mm:ss), and frame based time (hh:mm:ss.ff) in both 24 frames per second and 30 frames per second.

Home Page Site - <http://lighthouse.tierranet.com/scalc/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Cookie Pal 32-bit 1.1a	7/07/97	.18mb	Shareware \$15

Cookie Pal is a complete internet cookie management system for Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0. It lets you automatically accept and reject internet cookies from all or user specified web sites, without having to click on the web browser's annoying "Cookie Alert" messages all the time. Cookie Pal works with Internet Explorer 3.0 or later and Netscape Navigator 3.0 or later as well as Compuserve WinCIM 3.01 to give you complete and transparent control over the cookies which are accepted by and stored on your system. You can also view and delete existing cookies on your system.

Home Page Site - <http://www.kburra.com/cpal.html>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
CacheCompactor Version 4.0	7/07/97	306kb	Shareware \$10.00

Automatically removes temporary and cached files from your computer. It can also be configured to remove any user defined folder as well as individual files. CacheCompactor can recover a large amount of space consumed by your web browsers cache, and can also protect the privacy of your data by removing temporary copies of files that may be created while you are editing documents(for example, in a word processor).

Home Page Site - <http://www.triceris.com/CacheCompactor/default.asp>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
BlackBox Version 1.2	7/04/97	111kb	Shareware \$15.00

An easy to install enhancement to the Microsoft Windows 95 or Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 (x86 only) shell, and it provides users the ability to encrypt and decrypt files with exactly two mouse clicks. You have files that should be seen only by you? Have you transfer files over unsecured networks? Worried about someone is reading your files? Your Boss is reading your mail? Then BlackBox is for you! BlackBox will be installed as a system shell extension, this meaning that you will find it by double clicking on any file or folder you want to protect. By protecting a file, this file cannot be read anymore until it will be decrypted. It uses DES (Data Encryption Standard), the well known encoding standard. BlackBox implements besides the standard 56-bit key version of DES also a version of 56-bit key DES without the initial and final permutations, optimized for speed.

Home Page Site - <http://www.interscope.ro/BlackBox/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Clean System Directory Version 1.2	7/07/97	75kb	Freeware

This program scans your system looking for all references to DLL files in your Windows system directory. Those DLL files in the system directory that have no programs calling on them can be moved out of the system directory, saving disk space and improving system performance. For experienced users.

Home Page Site - <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~kevsol/sware.html>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Maplay 32-bit 1.90	7/08/97	.88mb	Freeware

Maplay is a program that decodes MPEG Audio Layer 1 and 2 files, which are factor of 6-12 times smaller than uncompressed audio (like Windows PCM WAVE, Sun AU, or Mac AIFF files). Despite the huge compression, there is no audible signal loss! You can retain CD-quality sound at compression ratios around 1:6 (128 kbit/s). This new version adds layer 3 support.

Home Page Site - <http://www-inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/~ctsay/mp2win32.html>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Disk Format Quick Version 1.01	7/03/97	242kb	Freeware

You need a tool to quickly and correctly format a diskette? Now you get it with DF. You simply have to right click the small symbol in the task bar, choose "Format diskette" from the popup menu and you'll get the format dialog. It's that easy as it looks like.

Home Page Site - <http://strebersdorf.ac.at/CMSystems.html>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Cookie Web Kit 32-bit 1.01	7/08/97	.01mb	Free

The Cookie Web kit automates the deletion of your cookie files everytime you boot up your computer or click on a certain icon. It works by the use

of a simple bat file, and can also be configured to delete cache and history files. This software is compatible with all versions of Netscape, and Internet Explorer (Windows95). Includes comprehensive setup file.

Home Page Site -<http://www.cookiecentral.com/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Pegasus Mail Version 2.54	7/03/97	1,700kb	Freeware

A really good E-mail program that's free. It has a lot of nice features like a spelling checker, mailing list support, and much more.

Home Page Site - <http://www.pegasus.usa.com/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
PhoneBook95 32-bit 2.3	7/08/97	1.40mb	Sharware \$20

Windows95 Phone/Address Book Manager, the only phone book you'll ever need ! Features:

- '• powerful 32-bit application
- '• intuitively easy to use
- '• organizes all your phone #'s, addresses, e-mail addresses, web addresses and more with ease
- '• search for any keyword in your database
- '• phone dialing capability
- '• one button emailing
- '• one button web site access
- '• separate personal / business directories
- '• printing capability

Home Page Site - <http://members.aol.com/lwsoftware/index.html>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
RaMaster Version 1.0	7/08/97	1,800kb	Shareware \$20.00

A RealAudio file queuer and librarian. It has two major functions: (1) Help users organize their RealAudio files in libraries. Users can also establish libraries which contain folders of songs in addition to individual song items. (2) Provide an intuitive user interface to make a list of favorite songs. The queue could be a persistent or a temporary one.

Home Page Site - <http://www.cs.ust.hk/~paul/rm/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Polyview 32-bit 2.90 beta 9	7/08/97	1.40mb	Shareware \$20

PolyView is a BMP, GIF, JPEG, photo-cd, PNG, and TIFF graphics viewer, file conversion, and printing utility for Windows NT and Windows 95. PolyView features fast image rendering, panning, and zooming that is optimized for Windows 95 and Windows NT. PolyView is a 32 bit application that uses multithreading to enhance usability and allow time consuming operations, such as image file reading and writing, to be performed in

parallel with user interface operations. PolyView's multithreaded nature also allows the reading and writing of multiple image files at the same time. With its image appearance manipulation, copy and paste facilities, and DDE execution capabilities, PolyView is an excellent companion to your favorite Web browser.

Home Page Site - <http://www.netins.net/showcase/polybytes/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
RealAudio Tuner Version 2.0 Beta	7/08/97	543kb	\$15.00

The RealAudio Tuner will allow you listen to radio stations from around the world. Any radio station that broadcasts with RealAudio compression over the Internet can be easily accessed with this tool. The RATuner will help you to keep track of the rapidly growing list of radio stations on the Internet. The easy to use interface helps you to find stations easily and quickly. Designed to look and act like the radio in your car, RATuner makes use of up to 10 preset stations for setting your favorites.

Although RATuner is distributed with over 130 live stations ready to play, you can add your own as you find more, giving it the flexibility to stay up to date. There are also options to delete and edit the station list as your needs change.

Home Page Site - <http://www.dragontek.com/RATuner/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Warlords 3 for Win95	7/08/97	12.40mb	Commercial Demo

Warlords III: Reign of Heroes continues the popular Warlords series in one of the most complex and challenging strategy gaming environments ever created. Starting with a single hero and a modest selection of armies, build up your forces and capture enemy cities to push back the evil hordes of Lord Bane and Lord Sartek. Or stage an epic campaign and vanquish your enemies to take over every city on the map. Warlords III offers a wealth of game play options, intricate strategic detail and many scenarios to choose from in a variety of settings.

Home Page Site - <http://www.warlords3.com/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
SmartTracker Stamps 97 Version 3.2	7/08/97	1,710kb	Shareware \$25.00

Organize and Catalog your stamp collection. Enter a multitude of information about your Stamp Collection including user defined fields. Easily mark stamps as "wanted". Narrow data down to a search. Sort data on any field 4 levels deep. Search and Replace, Import, Export, User Definable Reports, Select Colors, Select Fonts, Maintain Multiple Databases and more!

Home Page Site - <http://www.smartcode.com/isshtml/smtstamp.htm>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
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PerspectaView 32-bit 1.2. beta 3.0005 plug-in 7/09/97 3.00mb Free

Searching a web site with traditional indexing technology can lead to information overload with long lists of potentially irrelevant and unrelated information. The Perspecta SmartContent System is a fundamentally new approach for adding value to information whereby the user can dynamically interact with information, organize it according to their own point of view, and discover related information." It's kind of hard to explain, but basically it lets you "fly" through information.

Home Page Site - <http://www.perspecta.com/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Book Catalog Version 2.8	07/08/97	4,114kb	Shareware \$20.00

Features an elegant, user-friendly interface for storing book and author information. Subjects are displayed as a hierarchial tree and includes drag and drop support for maintaining data. Other features include realtime parsing of dewey decimal classes into categories and field customization. Many fields of information stored using Microsoft's powerful Access engine make Book Catalog useful for home, book collecting, and even small libraries.

Home Page Site - <http://www.vecdev.com/dem/BookCatalog/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
PassWords Plus 32-bit 2.2	7/09/97	1.10mb	Shareware \$5

Passwords Plus allows an unlimited number of users to each keep an individual password-protected list of their passwords. Names and passwords may be pasted into other applications using the standard Windows clipboard. Passwords lists may be browsed and printed.

Home Page Site - <http://www.dlcwest.com/~sorev/passplus.html>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
WinImage 32-bit beta 3.05.3044	7/09/97	.25mb	Shareware \$30

WinImage is a powerful disk utility that enables users to make disk image from floppy, extract file from image, make an empty image, put the image on blank disk. WinImage also supports many different standard and non-standard formats, including Microsoft new DMF format.

Home Page Site - <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/gvollant/winimage.htm>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
BusinessCards Version 4.18	7/07/97	350kb	Shareware \$29.95

BusinessCards is EXTREMELY INTUITIVE and EASY TO USE universal database/organizer software. It is a perfect Cardfile replacement: COMPACT, FAST and FLEXIBLE. Sports elegant folio-like user interface with

alphabetical tabs and flipping pages. Fully Internet enabled, packed with lots of advanced features.

Home Page Site - <http://www.midstream.com/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
LifeSaver 32-bit 3.30	7/09/97	1.50mb	Shareware \$30

LifeSaver is a configuration file backup and restore utility which can be used to recover from problems due to corrupt configuration files or changes to configuration files which can not be undone.

Home Page Site - <http://members.aol.com/aeroblade/index.html>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Wallpaper Wizard Version 1.0.2	7/09/97	3,500kb	Freeware

The purpose of this program is to allow you to have a different wallpaper image each time you boot up your computer. This program is very simple to use.

Home Page Site - <http://members.aol.com/brandoprod/index.html>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Beasts & Bumpkins for Win95	7/10/97	16.00mb	Commercial Demo

Stripped of your lands and exiled by the King, you must rebuild your empire from scratch with just a handful of smelly peasants at your command. It'll take careful management of your limited resources to increase the population of your servants. And you're going to need every penny - and peasant - you can muster if you're to defeat the monstrous minions of the Dark Lord Sabellian that terrorise the countryside. Expand your population, increase your lands, wipe out all the opposition and look forward to being crowned King Mildew I". (It's a real time strategy/wargame).

Home Page Site - <http://www.ea.com/eastudios/beasts/home.html>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Companion Reader Version 2.0	7/07/97	740kb	Shareware \$19.95

Designed to give you the ability to predict the outcome of a wide selection of daily personal and business events involving you and any other individual, or just any two individuals via Numerological and Astrological calculations as well as The Book of Dead and The Cabala. Numerology has been used for centuries to compare individuals' profiles. Now, the power of that knowledge is finally at your fingertips. Discover the future or check your past - the choice is yours!

Home Page Site - <http://www2.pitnet.net/numer/companion.html>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
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Internet Neighborhood 32-bit 1.1.26

7/10/97 1.00mb

Shareware

Internet Neighborhood is a Windows 95 Shell Extension which is used for browsing remote FTP sites as if they were directories/folders on your local computer! With KnowWare's Internet Neighborhood, there's no longer any need for those 'Explorer Like' applications and utilities; It's all integrated into your existing namespace. Why launch a separate application to browse a remote FTPsite, download the file, close the application, then run Explorer? Simply launch Explorer directly, browse your way through the Internet neighborhood, then drag-drop the files/application directly into your file system.

Home Page Site - <http://www.knowareinc.com/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
Wheel 'O' Yum Version 1.0	7/07/97	33kb	Freeware

This is a little silly utility that you will strangely find yourself using often. It solves an age-old problem. Where are you gonna go eat? It allows you to add and remove restaurant names and select which ones you do not want the Wheel 'O' Yum to choose from. Requires the VB 5.0 Runtimes.

Home Page Site - <http://www.fhsu.edu/students/dave/yum/>

Name/Version	Release Date	Size	Price
HR Manager Version 1.4	7/07/97	8,570kb	Shareware \$75.00

A Human Resources database management program that tracks all pertinent HR data including training classes attended, wage and personal information, time off earned and used, and performance reviews due. A variety of reports are available to the operator. The AutoCalc feature calculates time off earned in five categories according to the user-defined parameters, vacation, sick days, personal days, and two user-defined categories. Registered users receive free upgrades for life (only cost is cost of media) and free e-mail support.

Home Page Site - <http://www.silverbeaver.com/>

EDUPAGE STR Focus Keeping the users informed

Edupage

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BT/MCI MERGER GETS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OKAY

The U.S. Justice Department has approved the acquisition of MCI by British Telecommunications PLC, subject to various safeguards. The merger would be the largest acquisition of an American company by a foreign corporation, and the deal still requires approval by the Federal Communications Commission and several state agencies. The two companies say that job losses will be minimal and that most cost savings will come from sharing underwater phone cables and other resources. (New York Times 8 Jul 97)

FCC PUTS BELL ATLANTIC-NYNEX MERGER ON HOLD

Lawyers at the Federal Communications Commission, acting with the approval of FCC Chief Reed Hundt, are putting the Bell Atlantic-Nynex merger on hold, pending further discussions with telco lawyers on opening their local telephone markets to competition. Industry officials had expected a speedy okay after getting approval from the Justice Department's antitrust lawyers. Hundt privately has expressed concerns that once the merger occurs, East Coast consumers will have very little choice among local service providers. Under negotiation is a proposed requirement that the new combined entity would be forced to open its "operational support systems" to would-be rivals, such as MCI and AT&T. The FCC is also considering a variety of reporting requirements on how quickly Bell Atlantic and Nynex are accommodating new competitors. (Wall Street Journal 8 Jul 97)

TECH CEOs FORM PAC

Leaders of the country's most powerful high-tech companies have formed their own political action committee, dubbed Technology Network, or TechNet. Leading the new PAC are co-chairmen John Doerr, a technology venture capitalist, and Jim Barksdale, Netscape Communications' CEO. "This

is going to be a public policy and political advocacy organization that will focus on making sure the technology industry in Silicon Valley and nationally has a long-term voice at state and federal levels," says a TechNet spokesman. The group will initially focus on two issues -- establishing testing standards and fostering education technology, and urging uniform criteria relating to litigation among high-tech companies. The primary goal of the new organization, however, is to encourage better relations between politicians and technology companies. (TechWire 7 Jul 97)

CUTTING PRICES ON INTERNATIONAL FAXES

WorldCom International is initiating a new service providing cut-rate transmission of faxes over the Internet. The service, which will be operated by UUNet Technologies, a WorldCom subsidiary, and called UUNet Fax, will allow users to send documents not just from their personal computers, but also from standard fax machines. (Financial Times 8 Jul 97)

GOVERNMENTS, ONLINE SERVICES TANGLE OVER NET RULES

Government officials from Europe, the U.S., Canada, Japan and Russia have been meeting together with online service providers in Bonn, Germany to discuss ways of regulating the Internet without stifling its growth. "We need a minimum of clear rules as quickly as possible so that the users and suppliers of material on the Internet can finally enjoy greater legal certainty," said the German Economics Minister, reflecting the strong regulatory mood in the German government, which last week passed a comprehensive Internet law. Meanwhile, an America Online VP told the meeting, "We can and must break the regulatory cycle that has trapped each new electronic medium this century." AOL has advocated a self-policing policy for online providers. Both sides agreed that it is important to encourage an online environment that's hospitable to electronic commerce and other business functions. (USA Today 7 Jul 97)

ALUMNI GROUPS AND PRODIGY LINK UP FOR NET ACCESS

Three alumni associations representing alumni of Duke University, Fordham University and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst have cut a deal with Prodigy Internet to provide graduates with Internet access at a reduced rate of \$17.95 a month -- \$2 less than regular Prodigy customers. When they log on, the alumni will see an opening screen featuring their alma mater's logo and a link to the institution's Web site. Prodigy will pay the associations a small royalty for each member who signs up for the service. (Chronicle of Higher Education 11 Jul 97)

NET ADVERTISING AND THE EFFECT ON KIDS

The Center for Media Education and the Consumer Federation have asked the Federal Trade Commission to require that online companies have written permission from parents before collecting any personally identifying information from children. The groups also want the government to prohibit unsolicited commercial e-mail sent to children, as well as giveaways or contests and the use of fictional figures to solicit identity information from children. (USA Today 8 Jul 97)

GATES PITCHES NEW TYPE OF SET-TOP BOX

Microsoft CEO Bill Gates has been meeting with top cable executives to promote a new digital set-top box design that would connect TVs and cable

systems to provide a variety of two-way interactive programming. The box would be based on Windows CE software, and Microsoft is suggesting that rather than collecting software royalties, it would settle for a share of subscription fees for new services. The company also hopes to sell software to cable companies' central offices to administer the new services. Other companies hoping for a slice of the cable set-top box pie are Wink Communications and Navio, the Netscape Communications spinoff recently acquired by Oracle Corp. (Wall Street Journal 8 Jul 97)

SCIENTISTS PROPOSE NEW ENCRYPTION SCHEME

Two scientists at the IBM Almaden Research Center in San Jose, Calif. Have developed a new approach to public key cryptography based on mathematical constructs called lattices. The system would be based on a particular set of hidden hyperplanes that constitute the private key and a method of generating points near one of those hyperplanes for the public key. The security of the system rests on the computational difficulty of finding the "unique" shortest line segment (or vector) that connects any two points in a given lattice -- a task that's fairly easy in two or three dimensions, but much more difficult in a 100-dimensional lattice. The researchers are working to turn their theory into a marketable product, and see applications in creating digital signatures and other security and authentication schemes. (Science News 5 Jul 97)

STUDY PREDICTS FRAGMENTED LONG-DISTANCE MARKET

A market report by Northern Business Information predicts that by the year 2001 AT&T's share of the long-distance telephone market will fall to 38% (compared to 55% last year), and that the Bell regional operating systems that now dominate local service will capture 13% of the long-distance market. The author of the report says: "For the first time, we will soon have a long-distance market without a dominant player." (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 8 Jul 97)

JOBS SWITCH AT APPLE: GIL AND ELLEN OUT, STEVE IN

Apple Computer has announced the resignations of Chief Executive Gilbert F. Amelio and Chief Technology Officer Ellen Hancock, and indicated that Apple co-founder and "strategic advisor" Steve Jobs "will assume an expanded role as a key adviser to Apple's board and executive management team." Jobs will continue as chief executive of Pixar, the computer animation company, and Apple will conduct an external search for a new leader who can help the embattled company find a way to make a comeback. In the meantime, the company will be managed by its chief financial officer, Fred Anderson, who said: "The board of Apple is not happy with the company's financial performance. We've made progress in the last year and a half. But we're not yet on a growth path and not on a path to sustainable profitability." (New York Times 10 Jul 97)

MICROSOFT NETWORK DOES ANOTHER ABOUT-FACE

Following much fanfare last fall over the unveiling of its television-style programming format, Microsoft Network is once again revamping its strategy, moving back toward informational and service-oriented programming and beefing up the content on its free companion MSN.com Web site. "The movement to the free side is inevitable," says MSN's VP. "It doesn't mean there won't be things behind the subscription wall, but the competitive price of entry in the free space is going to go up." The company hopes to make MSN.com a "portal," to other Microsoft and World Wide Web sites, similar to the strategy adopted by Yahoo!, Excite and

America Online. A recent subscriber survey showed that MSN users spend about 70% of their time on the Web, and only about 5% of their time in Microsoft's exclusive Onstage area. (Wall Street Journal 10 Jul 97)

EU MINISTERS ISSUE DECLARATION ON INTERNET

European Union officials have issued a broad declaration touching on 69 points related to future regulation of the Internet in Europe. The declaration is the result of intense discussions among delegates from 29 European countries over two days. On the issue of content liability, delegates agreed that what is illegal off-line is also illegal online. Internet service providers generally aren't responsible for what their subscribers do, and shouldn't be subject to "unreasonable, disproportionate or discriminatory rules." In addition, the declaration states that Europeans support the ideal of nondiscriminatory taxes on Internet use, but stops short of declaring it a free-trade zone. Value-added taxes and other sales taxes that apply to goods purchased in stores should apply to products and services ordered and delivered over the Internet. With regard to encryption, the U.S. and Europe still have differences over the export of strong encryption technology, but U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley says the U.S. agrees with about 98% of the Bonn declaration. (Computerworld 9 Jul 97)

SPA CRACKS DOWN ON STUDENT SOFTWARE PIRACY

The Software Publishers Association has come up with a new way to punish college students who violate computer software copyrights by distributing them free over the Web. It's negotiated a settlement with a University of Puget Sound student who was caught operating such a site whereby the student will write a 20-page paper on the evils of computer piracy and copyright infringement, and perform 50 hours of community service, wiring schools for Internet access. If he reneges on the agreement, he must pay \$10,000, and the association may sue him for copyright infringement. SPA says it reserves the right to fine the institution and the student up to \$100,000 for each instance if school officials know about it and do nothing to stop it, and even an "unwillful infringer" can be fined up to \$20,000. An assistant to the president at Puget Sound says the SPA's approach puts too much pressure on higher education institutions to police their networks: "We don't have a duty to monitor what our students are doing with the Internet any more than the phone company has a duty to monitor what's going on on the phone lines." Educom President Bob Heterick says the dilemma stems from the difficulty of balancing sometimes-conflicting interests of publishers, authors and educators: "It's an extraordinarily difficult problem that's a manifestation of a whole series of access-versus-privacy issues." (Chronicle of Higher Education 11 Jul 97)

DEBIT CARDS A HIT

This year, Canadians will offer a debit card for payments on purchases almost as often as they offer a credit card. A survey conducted for the Interac Association found 50% of respondents prefer to pay by cash, while 22% prefer to pay by debit card (up from only 9% two years ago), and 17% would rather pay by credit card. Last year, there were 676-million debit card purchases, and Interac anticipates there will be 1-billion debit card purchases this year. (Ottawa Citizen 9 July 97)

MOTOROLA PULLS THE PLUG ON DRAM CHIPS

With computer memory chip prices spiraling downward, Motorola is phasing out production of its low-margin DRAM (dynamic random-access memory) chips

by year's end. The company will still crank out some DRAM chips in the billion-dollar plant now being built in Richmond, Va. -- a joint venture with Siemens -- but once the plant's operating at full capacity, Motorola will switch over to other types of more profitable chips, such as flash chips. (Business Week 14 Jul 97)

COMPAQ SLICES PRICES ...

In a move aimed at undermining the competitive advantage of direct mail computer sellers Dell Computer and Gateway 2000, Compaq Computer is lowering prices 10% to 15% on its corporate PC line. The company says the price reductions are not meant to fuel a temporary price war, but are intended to be permanent. Like Dell and Gateway, Compaq is launching a build-to-order business, and recently demonstrated to dealers that it could fill orders in five days. (Wall Street Journal 9 Jul 97)

...AND HP AND IBM FOLLOW SUIT

Hewlett-Packard and IBM are also making aggressive cuts in the prices of their personal computers, in order to match the lower prices offered by Dell. The HP announcement indicates price cuts by as much to 24% on commercial desktop computers. (New York Times 10 Jul 97)

BELLSOUTH JOINS WIRELESS PARTNERSHIP IN BRAZIL

BellSouth's \$2.5 billion bid has won a wireless license for Sao Paulo, Brazil, giving the company an investment in 10 Latin American nations. Three Brazilian companies joined with BellSouth in making the bid. Sao Paulo currently has 12 phone lines for each 100 people, compared with 70 lines for each 100 people in BellSouth's base territory in the Southeastern U.S. Brazil's economy is growing at 5% a year and the number of cellular phone customers has been growing 70% a year. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 10 Jul 97)

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Technical support is provided by the Office of Information Technology, University of North Carolina.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE The CAUSE organization's annual

conference on information technology in higher education is scheduled for the end of this month in New Orleans. The conference will bring together administrators, academicians and other managers of information resources. For full conference information check out <<http://cause-www.colorado.edu> > or send e-mail to conf@cause.colorado.edu.

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"It doesn't get any better."

Takin' a good look at Adobe

By R. F. Mariano

Beginning with this week and for the next twelve weeks, we are going to be running a Spotlight on Adobe. Why Adobe? Well, first of all, because we use their products extensively in the production of STReport and STReport's highly popular WebSite.

In the coming weeks we'll present what we consider to be the finest Publishing (both Electronic and HardCopy), Graphical and Photographic editing, enhancing, manipulation programs like Acrobat, Acrobat Capture, Photoshop 4.01 (the best in the business as far as we are concerned) to Pagemaker 6.5 (The Premier Desktop Publishing package) to Adobe Framemaker, Illustrator, Pagemill, Streamline and Dimensions.

We shall endeavor to offer you a valuable overview, insight and review to these powerful programs. You can believe this. STR Publishing (that's us) has had the opportunity to use just about everything available in our marketplace from the most expensive to the so-called "fancy-frilled" imports and on to the bargain basement disasters. We advocate and have chosen Adobe products for their support, reliability and power.

We are confident that once you've read our coverage of these and other fine Adobe products yet to be mentioned, you'll be as enthusiastic as we are. That is, if you're not already. Let me warn you now though, do not expect lengthy, boring statistical nonsense. Oh we'll get technical but it'll be in easy understanding conversational composition rather than techno-jargon. Also we are going to call upon some of the best minds in the Adobe World to make an "appearance" in this series. After all, we have one major goal in mind. That's to make certain you get the very best and up to date information available.

Kids Computing Corner
Frank Sereno, Editor
fsereno@streport.com

Redneck Rampage
PC CD-ROM
Street Price: \$39.95
For ages 17 and over

Interplay Productions
16815 Von Karman Ave.
Irvine, CA 92606
714-553-6678
www.interplay.com

Program Requirements

OS:	DOS 5.0
CPU:	Pentium 90
HD Space:	150 MB
Memory:	16 MB
Graphics:	640 x 480, 256 colors
CD-ROM:	Double-speed

Audio:	8-bit sound card
Other:	keyboard, mouse

review by Jason Sereno (jason.sereno@mules-ear.com)

What do you get when you cross the 3d Build engine of Duke Nukem 3D, your basic Hee Haw cast members, a slew of aliens bent on destroying the earth, and the firepower of a small third world country? Give up? The answer is Redneck Rampage. This new and hilariously gruesome game from Interplay plays on a stereotype that has been long overlooked by game makers. Redneck Rampage is a game that will keep you laughing all the way to the mothership.

You play as Leonard, a farmer and long time resident of Hickston, Arkansas. He was celebrating with his friend Bubba after Bessie, their hog, won \$250 dollars at the county fair. Suddenly, someone steals Bessie. Leonard and Bubba are attacked by clones of their long time friend and fellow redneck, Billy Ray Jeter. The rest is history as Leonard takes it upon himself to rescue Bessie from her alien capturers and also save the world in the

process. While on his journey, Leonard will fight aliens of all shapes and sizes as well as clones of his fellow townsmen in fourteen levels of fun and excitement through Hickston. Redneck Rampage contains "colorful" dialog and a soundtrack that will suit any redneck or rock n' roll gamer, for that matter. Redneck Rampage is great for the gamer who is looking for a shoot em' up that doesn't take itself seriously and contains laughs just as a high as the body count.

Redneck Rampage contains two episodes. The first is located around the outskirts of Hickston and the second concentrates more on the downtown area. Each level in the game is very distinct from the next. You feel a difference in your surroundings whether you are in a trailer park, meat packaging factory, or a city atmosphere. You don't notice any heavy repeating of wallpaper or textures during the game either. The moveable trucks and forklifts, although not controllable by the player, add a nice presence to the levels also. Some buildings may be blown up and contain moveable parts, such as bookcases, inside of them.

In the early levels of the Outskirts episode, you will face mostly just Billy Ray Jeter and the Skinny Old Coot's clones. There is also an assortment of barnyard animals that could prove to be useful or harmful to you. Yes, the chickens, cows, and pigs may make good target practice, but they are useful as stepping stones to get to otherwise unreachable areas. The pigs may even retaliate in some instances if you try to harm them. The savage dogs have bitten at the ankles of intruders and the mosquito population isn't kindly to people either. Sometimes, even if considered inhumane, these pests need to be dispatched Leonard style.

When you enter the later stages of the Outskirts episode and the Downtown levels, you will start seeing aliens popping up unexpectedly and unwontedly. The aliens range in size, strength, and of course, firepower. The little cute E.T. type aliens are affectionately called Turd Minions. They are said to be made from alien fecal matter and move around throwing parts of their body at you. These are the smallest and least harmful of the aliens. A shotgun should suffice in dealing with them. The next fiercest are the Alien Hulk Guards. These ten-foot tall aliens/machines pack a lot of firepower but are lacking in the brain department. Usually you will find that you will unload your whole arsenal before destroying these bad boys. After that, you have to blow them up with a stick of dynamite or the Hulk Guards will come right back to life! When you do destroy one, you can pick up his alien weapon to do some real damage. The Alien Vixens are the last type of aliens you will meet. These beautiful, yet deadly, creatures will either seduce you to death or blow you away with their pectoral shooting machine guns. You can pick that up too after you destroy her. You will occasionally come upon Sheriff Hobbes, the law in Hickston. He packs two guns that appear to be revolvers but shoot like Uzi's. When he reloads them, you should unload a heavy dose of your saw blade shooter.

When you find yourself low on your life meter, you have to find a source of health. In Redneck Rampage there are two basic ways to gain back the life energy you need: alcohol and junk food. Alcoholic beverages include beer, whiskey, and the ever popular moonshine. If you drink too much alcohol in a short period of time, you may become disoriented. This will wear off eventually, but if an alien sees that you are tipsy he may take advantage of the situation and blow you to smithereens. The junk food in the game consists of your basic large bags of pork grinds and the assortment of cowpies. If you consume too much junk food at a sitting, Leonard may be heard relieving himself while you are playing. Other ways to gain health are yelling, "Yee Haa!!" or emptying your bladder.

You will find Leonard and the other characters in the game making comments and yelling things that will keep you laughing as you kill your enemies. The Skinny Old Hoot, who thinks he owns everything in Hickston, will yell, "Get off my land!" even when he lies dead on the floor. The Alien Vixens in their last attempt for forgiveness moan, "But I loved you" as they fall to their demise. Even Leonard joins in the fun, as he blows up someone with a stick of dynamite he yells, "That boy done blowed up good!" Unfortunately there are other phrases that aren't suitable for all ages. That is why Interplay has included a child mode on the game that is password locked. The child mode will curb the violence by taking away all gore in the game and remove all offensive comments. In this mode, I would rate the game as possibly as a 13 or over game instead of the 17 or older from the ESRB.

Redneck Rampage features a unique soundtrack with tunes from Mojo Nixon, The Beat Farmers, and Reverend Horton Heat. With songs like "Nurture My Pig" and "Baby's Lickered Up" you might be able to tell that these songs are for more mature audiences. There are eight songs all together and each one depicts different aspects of being a redneck. The songs contain funny lyrics and fit along with the story pretty well. These songs are a well-needed rest from the likes of other 3D shooters that make half-hearted attempts to scare gamers with spooky and eerie tunes.

I found Redneck Rampage was just what I expected it to be. I wasn't thrilled to death with the graphics or immersed into the ever changing story line. You can think of this game as a Jackie Chan movie. You don't pay to see heavy dialog or drama, but you want hard hitting action and the occasional side-splitting comedy thrown into the mix. I found both in Redneck Rampage. Although the game does not contain a large assortment of characters, the huge levels and scenery make up for it. This game will be great for someone that wants the perfect amount of action and violence with a light touch of humor sprinkled on top. If you or someone you know is looking for a hilariously funny 3D shooting game that packs aliens, rednecks, and laughs all into one, pick up a copy of Interplay's Redneck Rampage today!

The Great Battles of Alexander

Windows 95 CD-ROM

Street Price: \$40

For all ages

(contains mild violence)

Interactive Magic

P.O. Box 13491

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

(919) 461-0722 (telephone)

(919) 461-0723 (fax)

www.imagicgames.com

Program Requirements

OS: Windows 95

CPU: 486DX/100

HD Space: N/A

Memory: 16 MB

Graphics: 640 x 480, 256 colors

CD-ROM: Double-speed

Audio: 8-bit sound card

Other: keyboard and mouse

Review by Jason Sereno (jason.sereno@mules-ear.com)

Alexander of Macedonia: The man perhaps considered the closest ever to ruling the world. He became a king at the age of twenty and was conqueror of the Western world by his early thirties. He defeated the Greeks and the Persians while taking the crowns of kings and pharaohs from fourteen modern nations. His aspiration was to have a great empire, united in harmony and fellowship, spanning the known world. Although he died of fever at the age of 32 and his empire diminished shortly after, Alexander will be remembered forever as Alexander the Great. As he said to his troops before passing, "It is a lovely thing to live with courage, and to die, leaving behind an everlasting renown."

Well, Interactive Magic has made sure to keep that everlasting renown with The Great Battles of Alexander. This entertaining and informative history lesson/strategy game combines both very well to entertain while teaching the user about someone that they may not be too familiar with. Personally, I didn't know a great deal about Alexander the Great until I used this program. Sure I had read about other conquerors like Napoleon and Julius Caesar. Actually I have only read Shakespeare's version and I am sure it is not historically correct, but Alexander the Great has always been a very vague figure to me.

The basic style of the game is similar to strategy board games of the same genre. In both, the players take turns and must wait until the other completes his turn before he may move again. Each squadron of warriors can move a specified number of squares. There are numbers in the game that indicate each group's power. This is due to the number of warriors and the means of destruction (as I like to call them) that they have. If one of the small units has a high rating and possesses spears, they would surely conquer a group of men with light artillery. These things do reflect some of the classic board games like Stratego and others.

The Great Battles of Alexander displays SVGA battle sequences filled with animation and sounds. The skirmishes depict ten actual battles Alexander and his armies fought in the ten year span between 338 BC and 326 BC. You control the fates of soldiers armed with bows, spears, and cavalry riding on elephants and horses. While on the battlefield, you can watch the action take place and listen to the swords clash. You soon discover if the soldiers that you position vanquish the enemies or perish at their hands. In some instances, you can attack the other armadas or you can wait for them to attack in "shock" mode. Either way, the results will be basically the same.

In some battles there may be more than one leader in each army. When there is more than one present, only the designated commander has jurisdiction over his units. Also, when the group is out of reach of their commanders, the troops cannot receive instructions. This can be confusing when the player is jumping all over the map acting as separate commanders and I found myself trying to control groups that did not belong to me. It seemed odd however that some units that are not yours are closer to you than their own leader. It probably would have helped if Interactive Magic had highlighted the groups under your control. Before each battle, you have several options. You can make the game easier or harder by adjusting the amount of Macedonians or their adversaries. The Great Battles of Alexander also explains in intricate detail the circumstances of the battles and the results in a brief and informative history lesson. This part of the game teaches you about the time of Alexander and his quest for an empire.

In the game you can play as Alexander and try to rule the world in less than a decade. You can battle as Darius, Mennon, Clitus, and other celebrated military commanders of the age to try to stop Alexander from ruling the Western world also. You have the opportunity to actually change the course of history! If you want to fight in all of the battles in order, you can start a campaign that will take you from Alexander, the prince of Macedonia, to the most powerful man of his time.

This game has multiplayer capability as well. Two players can sit at the computer together and match wits. Modem to modem play is available as well as network and Internet connection too. This adds depth to this already fun to play game. When playing with a friend, you are not only playing for the rule of most of the Western continents but for bragging rights until your next battle over the computer.

The Great Battles of Alexander is informative and entertaining while possessing that great addiction factor that all great games must have in today's market. There is some mild animated violence that I feel most kids and parents will not mind that much. This is a strategy and history game before anything else and does not contain explicit violence. "War is hell" you must remember. The information is some that you won't find anywhere else in a game on the market. This is a game that is fairly easy to play and understand, too. If you love strategy, history, or both, then check out The Great Battles of Alexander. Other games in the Great Battle series include The Great Battles of Hannibal and The Great Battles of Julius Caesar.

Special Notice!! STR Infofile File format for Articles

File Format for STReport

All articles submitted to STReport for publication must be sent in the following format. Please use the format requested. Any files received that do not conform will not be used. The article must be in an importable word processor format for Word 6.0 and/or Word Perfect 7.. The margins are .05" left and 1.0" Monospaced fonts are not to be used. Please use proportional fonting only and at Twelve (12) points.

- `• No Indenting on any paragraphs!!
- `• No Indenting of any lines or "special gimmickery"
- `• No underlining!
- `• Columns shall be achieved through the use of tabs only. Or, columns in Word or Word Perfect format. Do NOT, under any circumstances, use the space bar.
- `• Most of all.. PLEASE! No ASCII "ART"!!
- `• There is no limits as to size, articles may be split into two if lengthy
- `• Actual Artwork should be in GIF, PCX, JPG, TIF, BMP, WMF file formats
- `• Artwork (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.) should be sent along with the article separately
- `• Please use a single font only in an article. TTF New Times Roman 12pt. is preferred. (VERY Strong Hint)

If there are any questions please use either E-Mail or call. On

another note. the ASCII version of STReport is fast approaching the "end of the line" As the major Online Services move away from ASCII.. So shall STReport. All in the name of progress and improved readability. The amount of reader mail expressing a preference for our Adobe PDF enhanced issue is running approximately 15 to 1 over the ASCII edition. I might add however, the requests for our issues to be done in HTML far outnumber both PDF and ascii. HTML is now under consideration. We'll keep you posted. Besides, STReport will not be caught in the old, worn out "downward compatibility dodge" we must move forward.

However, if the ASCII readership remains as high, rest assured. ASCII will stay. Right now, since STReport is offered on a number of closed major corporate Intranets as "required" Monday Morning reading.. Our ascii readers have nothing to worry themselves about. It looks like it is here to stay.

Many grateful thanks in advance for your enthusiastic co-operation and input.

Ralph F. Mariano, Editor
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STReport International Online Magazine

Classics & Gaming Section
Editor Dana P. Jacobson
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From the Atari Editor's Desk

"Saying it like it is!"

Going back to work after a two-week vacation is maddening! Nothing I despise more than trying to play catch-up, but I guess it's all part of the job...

It's been hectic around here - even more than usual. My wife and I put in a bid for another house last weekend but we haven't heard back yet because one of the owners is out of town. It's been difficult to have much online presence this past week as I've had to keep our lines open for our real estate agent to call! The waiting is driving us crazy (worse than returning to work!). It appears that the offer will be accepted, but that doesn't make the waiting any easier! We hope to know where we stand by the end of this weekend.

So, my mind has been on other things, as you can tell. I feel a little derelict for not having a lot to say with regard to all things Atari during the past few weeks, but I'm sure you'll bear with me. And then in another month or so (positively thinking, of course!), we'll be moving and setting up the new house, so I may be a "stranger" for a couple of more weeks or so. I am looking forward to becoming a home owner, however!

So, let's get to this week's issue and perhaps my anxiety attacks will be over by this time next week. <g>

Until next time...

MiST AtariFest IX!

I got a flyer with more updated information but I cannot find it... so here's the information straight off my website:

"Mid-Indiana ST AtariFest IX is all signed to get its 9th annual event under way by 10 a.m. Saturday, July 26, at the Post Road Community Center on the east side of Indianapolis. The location is not hard to find, but it's not really close to any interstate highway. Best way is to take the Post Road exit off either I-70 or I-74. From I-70, you drive south a couple miles on Post Road. From I-74, you drive north even farther on Post Road.

Tell your friends: No. 9 is on for sure! The biggest and best MIST yet! The location is well marked at 1313 South Post Road in a park-like setting, standing well back off the road at least 100 yards. We'll have at least 30 3x8-foot tables available. There are no extra charges for electricity - vendors, be sure to bring extension cords and outlet strips. The space is about the same as available in the main ballroom in the past, but the ceiling is much higher and the whole atmosphere is more open. More updates will follow as soon as we get them.

See you there! "

Digital Antic Project

From Kevin Savetz

The Digital Antic Project is a small crusade to put all of the old issues of Antic (and eventually its sister magazine, STart) on the Internet. I have received permission from the publisher of Antic to make the material available on the Internet for free. The site currently features the complete text of nine issues, as well as cover art and memorable ads from the magazine. More material will be added as time permits -- faster if YOU volunteer to help by scanning, HTMLizing, or proofreading. The site is at <http://www.northcoast.com/savetz/antic/dap.html>

Your comments, suggestions and help are welcome!

Cheers,
Kevin Savetz

Earnings Update - JTS Expects Lower 2Q Earnings

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A., 1997 JUL 8 (Newsbytes) -- By Newsbytes Staff. JTS Corp. [ASE:JTS] announced that revenue for the second quarter of fiscal 1998 ending August 2, 1997 is expected to be lower than the prior quarter's level, which were at \$73.4 million. The company also saw a net loss of

\$11.8 million or a \$0.11 per share loss based on 105.8 million shares, for the first quarter of fiscal 1998. The company plans to announce its second quarter financial results during the later part of August 1997. Company officials blamed an "industry-wide weakness in the disk drive market" for its impending results. JTS Corp. designs, manufactures, and supplies enhanced-capacity hard disk drives for the notebook and desktop personal computer market.

Publisher Note.. (Who Cares??It's just another dose of the "Tramiel Treatment")

Gaming Section

More Jaguar Joystick News!
"Tanarus" and more....

From the Editor's Controller - Playin' it like it is!

The summer months are taking their toll on gaming news. Most people are spending time out of their homes and letting their game machines collect that proverbial dust. Quantity of news is bleak, but we do have some information for you this week, including a couple of Jaguar-related items. Atari may be gone, but the stubborn among us remain. Let's see what's happening this week!

Until next time...

Industry News STR Game Console NewsFile - The Latest Gaming News!

Sony Interactive Studios America's First On-line Game

SAN DIEGO (July 7) BUSINESS WIRE - July 7, 1997 - "Tanarus" Is Rated the No. 1 Game on the Internet Top 40 Download Chart as Listed on the Internet Entertainment Charts, www.worldcharts.com "Tanarus," Sony Interactive Studios America's (SISA) first on-line multiplayer game, stormed onto the Internet and is now ranked the No. 1 game on the top 40 Internet download list for the second straight week.

Out for only a brief 10 weeks, "Tanarus" has exploded to the top due to its unique and highly addictive style of game play, strategy and tactics. The Internet Entertainment Chart's Web page draws players from around the world to vote for their favorite game each week, and as the page states, "The list contains the most popular PC games in the world at this time."

SISA develops software for the PlayStation game console, personal computer and on-line markets. With headquarters in Foster City, Calif., and development offices in Foster City and San Diego, SISA is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc. Visit the company on the Web at <http://www.tanarus.com>.

Jaguar Online STR InfoFile - Online Users Growl & Purr!

Sb: More Joystick Info!

Fm: Larry Tipton
To: All

Dark Knight Games, a company based out of Nashua, NH has announced the possibility of doing a limited release of High-Quality Arcade JoySticks for the Atari Jaguar. Dark Knight Games is already working on "Defcon 1" a 3D Tomb-Raider style game to be released for the PC, and the Atari Jaguar. The conditions of this release are very rigid, so please read this carefully. In order for this release to happen I have to gather 140 names on a petition whom will buy the JoyStick. If you are interested please send me e-mail including your Name, E-mail address, and whether you would like a Regular or Pro model.

The prices should be \$50.00 for the regular model, and \$69.00 for the Pro model. Plus whatever shipping charges are incurred. We will not be requesting any form of payment until we reach the 140 mark. Two weeks after we reach 140, we will send e-mails out to all the people that requested a joystick through this petition. Please note: Payment will be needed either by Personal Check or by Money Order. No credit card orders will be taken. This will be a limited release. We will only be making the amount of JoySticks necessary to fill the orders on the petition. In order for us to go ahead with the plan we must have a minimum of 140 signees. If there are more than 140 that's OK. Anyone who signs the petition is guaranteed one. There is a possibility of another production run only if there is enough demand for the product after the initial run.

The joysticks have the same buttons as the corresponding controllers. The regular has Three buttons with joystick, and the Pro has six buttons with the JoyStick. Both models should have the 1-9 keypad. These joysticks are ideal in games like BattleSphere, and Blue Lightning. The main reason were in a rush is so these are available before BattleSphere comes out. Joysticks are great in games such as Doom, AVP, HoverStrike, and AirCars. Fighting games will never be the same once you experience them with the Jag Joystick. ----Not to mention the improvements it will bring to games such as Tempest 2000, Defender 2000, Breakout 2000, and Missile Command 3D. Iron Solder, and the ever impressive Iron Soldier 2 by Telegames are incredible. It's like you're in the game. For more information please contact ShelShock@juno.com.

ONLINE WEEKLY STReport OnLine

The wires are a hummin'!

PEOPLE... ARE TALKING

On CompuServe

Compiled by Joe Mirando
jmirando@streport.com

Hidi ho friends and neighbors. Well, I realize that I filled up last week's column with a bit more of my own material than I had intended to, but thanks to those of you who emailed me to let me know what you thought. They say that for every person who writes, there are five or ten who don't. Gee, there are a lot more people reading this column than I had thought.

While most email pertained to either supporting or dissenting views, one person asked why I hadn't even mentioned the Mars Pathfinder Mission. The

answer is quite simple. When I first started writing reviews (which seems like such a long time ago), I had written a small review about a piece of software that I had expected would be the next big thing in the Atari world. After putting a beta version through its paces, I spoke with the author to see if any of the options that were non-functional in the beta version would be non-functional in the finished version. I was assured that the final version would be complete and that everything would work as advertised. I wrote the review as if the options really did work and, while I did not dwell on them or go into any specifics about how they worked, several people let me know after release of the product that these things did not work. Due to programming problems, the options were never implemented and the menu entries had been removed from the final product. I never received any hate mail or nasty messages about it, but I always felt like I had cheated the readers.

Okay, so what does this have to do with the Mars Pathfinder? Simple. If I had included info about all of the things I had expected Pathfinder and Sojourner to see (which, by the way, is pretty much what they are seeing now), and it had gone the way of Mars Explorer which had blown itself to bits as it attempted to enter Mars orbit, I would again feel that I had cheated the reader. The fact is that Pathfinder and Sojourner are alive and well on the surface of Mars, and are expected to continue performing admirably for the remainder of their planned mission. I'm also glad that I waited to mention the mission because CompuServe has made the following announcement this week:

"Mars Pathfinder Lands on CSi
Internet users around the world will be gathered around their terminals on the Fourth of July when the Mars Pathfinder spacecraft lands on the red planet. And in conjunction with NASA's mission to learn more about the surface and atmosphere of Mars, CSi will be the only online service with a mirror site on the Internet at GO <http://mars.compuserve.com> to help absorb some of the high online traffic anticipated at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory Web site. CSi's site features constant updates on mission activities and information about mission objectives. Pathfinder photographs of the Martian surface will also be added regularly as they become available."

If you have the ability and the chance to do so, check this site out. I can remember back when the best you could possibly do was to order slides of the pictures that the Viking landers had taken on Mars about twenty years ago. Now you can get the latest pics almost instantly. Ain't progress wonderful? Well, let's take a look at what's going on in the forums.

From the Atari Computing Forums

First up, Michael Pappas asks:

"Are there any web browsers out for the TT?"

Albert Dayes tells Michael:

"There is CAB and another one that was recently uploaded to the library. I assume they work on a TT."

Michael asks Albert the all-important question:

"Is it fully Web compatible?"

Carl Barron jumps in and tells Michael that it...

"Depends on what 'fully web compatible means'?"

Michael explains his concerns to Carl:

"I mean if the program would work with most web sites without problems or severe crashes."

Carl replies:

"Well cab is supposed to work with html. I don't know of any java support for atari. I think there is none. If the site expects you to have java it won't work. If it sends a 8 meg jpg it won't work. If its a nice and friendly place, properly designed it will work, if its an 'everyone has a vax' site then it could be a problem with data choking the atari client. I must confess that I do everything these days on my macs."

Rich Link adds:

"As far as I know, there are no "fully web compatible" browsers, if you define that as supporting all the current html extensions, plus the appropriate browser plug-ins that are used by the common PC browsers (IE 3.0 and Netscape 3.0).

You won't have Real Audio or Beatnik sound, Quicktime movies may not be active, etc. The basic HTML browser functions should work."

They do, in fact, work quite well. I use the CAB version 2 demo fairly often and am fairly impressed at the quality of the product and that you can get a one megabyte, 8 MHz machine to do what it does. Sure, it takes a while to build the images and the colors are quite limited with a 1040, but it does work.

Michael asks Rich:

"Would you know if there's a commercial web browser for the TT? I'm surprised that there isn't one. The TT is a 68030 computer and I can't see why a web browser isn't available for it since a web browser would run on a 386 or a Mac with a 68030 processor. Maybe there's a Magic version of it?"

Good ol' DPJ, our own Dana Jacobson, tells Michael:

"There are at least two commercial web browsers currently being developed. Last I heard, the one from Oregon Research was planned to arrive in late summer, early fall."

Joe Villarreal adds:

"Version 2.0 of CAB (Crystal Atari Browser) is commercial and works very well on a TT. I just got mine 06/23/97. It'll work with any Atari St, STe, TT, or Falcon. You still need to know how to connect using Stik 1.12 since the Cab 2 manually does not describe it. I suggest that you start using Cab 1.5 along with Stik 1.12 and the Cab overlay version 1.25 first. Cab 1.5 also works well although Cab 2 is a little faster; it's actually faster than the 68030 version of Cab 1.5 on my TT.

I've been connecting thru a local BBS that supports Slip/PPP connections for more than a month now. It cost \$16 a month for unlimited access at speeds up to 33k, I believe, although I only have a 28,800 modem.

Cab 1.5 is shareware. It's in the database, along with Stik 1.12 and the Cab overlay 1.25 which are also shareware. Place the overlay in the same directory that Cab 1.5 is in. You'll need to configure the two Stik dial scripts to login; probably the hardest part. Make sure that the internet provider supports Slip and not

Cslip. Stik does not support Cslip or PPP at the moment. STING is supposed to support Slip and Cslip but not PPP at the moment. I haven't tried using Sting although I might one of these days.

Cab works well with graphic cards. I'm using a Nova Vme Plus and use Cab in a 640x480 32k color window most of the time. I also use it in a 800x600 32k color window."

Kevin Hawthorne tellss Joe that he...

"Just had to jump in and say "thanks" for the first understandable explanation of what versions of what to use with which versions of what else... I got CAB up and running months ago, had a hard disk disaster, and couldn't replicate what I had done with CAB to save my life. WHERE DID YOU GET the commercial version of CAB?"

Joe tells Kevin:

"I bought Cab 2.0 from System Solutions in England. I've learned that's it now available in the U.S. at Chro_Magic Software and also Systems For Tommorrow. Price is \$34.99."

Alvin Baligad asks:

"...Which is a better multitasking system, Magic or Geneva? I have Geneva on my Falcon030, but I can't run too many programs with my 4MB of memory. I like the process of a faster TOS system, but scared it might mess up some programs I use."

Albert Dayes tells Alvin:

"You might try adding more RAM to your system. That should improve your performance overall."

Bob Matiska adds:

"Like Albet says in his reply, a Falcon really shows its strength when you bump the memory up to 14 megs. More than 4 is extremely useful when multitasking. Systems For Tomorrow is selling the Ram Gizmo 14 meg upgrade with memory installed for just \$159.99 plus shipping and I heartily recommend it. Mine works perfectly and was very easy to install. Their email address: sales@SystemsForTomorrow.com. Info at 816-833-4738, orders at 800-875-4943, Tues- Fri noon to 6 P.M. Central time, Sat 10 A.M to 6 P.M."

Alvin replies:

"I'll look into getting the RAM Gizmo But do I need a new case to install it in? I heard that somewhere."

Bob tells Alvin:

"Nope, the Ram Gizmo fits perfectly in your standard Falcon case. Everything goes back where it was; there's no cutting or shimming of anything.

There is an aftermarket case available for the Falcon's innards, maybe several, in fact. They give you plenty of space to add things that won't fit in the standard case. You won't need them for this upgrade though."

Michael Pappas jumps in and asks Bob for more info:

"I notice your message on memory upgrades and I was wondering if this place you mentioned, "Systems for Tomorrow" would carry memory chips for the TT and if so, how much would it cost? I'd like to get my system to 8 or 16 megs."

Bob tells Michael:

"The TT uses a separate card for the TT ram, from what I understand. (That's one Atari computer I don't have any experience with.) If you have only ST Ram in your TT and no TT ram card, Systems For Tomorrow has them for \$99.99 with no ram installed. They take 8 chip 30 pin simms to give you 4 or 16 megs of TT ram, according to my catalog. SFT doesn't list ram in its catalog, but it wouldn't hurt to ask. I notice they list the Falcon Ram Gizmo for \$59.99 less ram and \$159.99 with 16 megs, so if the same type of simms are used in both, the price for 16 megs would seem to be approximately \$100. I know the Ram Gizmo takes 4, 4-meg simms but am not sure if the TT ram card takes one simm or four. Maybe somebody here with experience on the TT can answer this."

Alvin Baligad asks:

"Does anyone know how the Outside virtual memory software works for the 68030 computers (ie Falcon & TT & compatibles)? It sounds great, but after seeing some big messes made with PCs and Macs & their virtual memory managers, I'm a little concerned."

Albert Dayes tells Alvin:

"I have not seen many messages about Outside at all unfortunately."

RE: Virtual Memory on other platforms.

On the PC it depends what operating system you are running. UNIX is very stable operating system on Intel Platform. I have more experience with SCO UNIX and it was stable back when the company I worked for ran it on a 386 complete with medical office software, SQL databases and of course the C/C++ compiler that I was working with."

Fred Horvat adds:

"Hope this helps you out. I have the latest version of Outside for my TT030. Version number I think it is Ver 3.80? But on my TT030 once configured properly it worked well but slow. With Outside what you do is set up a permanent swap file of any size that you'd like up to 256 Meg on a partition that you will not use for any other data. I guess the reason for that is to protect the integrity of the FAT for that partition and swap file. One major note, the hard drive must be formatted with Atari's HDX or compatible software. ICD format will not work. You can run ICD driver software but not to format it. There is an excellent Hard Drive format and driver software that comes with Outside that is worth looking at. I am currently using the software without any problems. For me I used my last partition H: and set the swap file size for 8 Meg. When you boot the computer you now have 8 Meg of TT RAM available on top of whatever ST RAM in my case 2 Meg ST. The program used 300k of memory to control that 8 Meg. Now to use that virtual memory you must flag your software to use TT RAM. An included utility or any other TT RAM flagging software will work. After you flag your software and run it the program thinks it is running in TT RAM. For example with only 2 Meg of ST RAM I was always running out of memory with Speed of Light or Image Copy. With Outside I could view any JPG or TGA file. It takes a long time to load programs or files but once loaded they run fine. How long is long? I don't have any benchmarks to tell you but as a guess I'd say depending on the size of the program or file 10-30 times longer than loading into ST RAM. Sounds crappy, not really."

If a program takes 1 second to load then is 10 seconds or around there really that bad? Biggest benefit is that you get to run software you could not run before. Plus Outside sells for around \$70 US. Currently I am not using Outside because the TT030 now has 4 Meg of TT RAM installed. For the most part from what I remember most software that is TT030 compatibly and TT RAM compatibly would run under Outside. There were some programs that would bomb but I don't remember which. It's supposed to work on a Falcon and have talked to people who have used it successfully on that machine. I think it's also supposed to work with any hopped up ST with a 68030 board also.

Why does it run so slow in comparison to other operating systems and platforms like IBM/Win95? My best guess is that the operating system has it built in to handle it. Atari and TOS never had it intended so they have the software running on top of TOS and not part of it. Outside does a very good job for what it is intended to do. I don't remember trying it out with MagiC 4.0 or 5.0 so I can't help you there. OS/2 and Windows 95 have dynamic swap files or virtual memory files. They may start out 0 but load your Web browser or Word Processor and then they get created and grow say 16 Meg. When the program is exited the swap file will shrink or possibly disappear again only to get created when needed."

Gary Partington asks:

"Can anyone explain what MagiC is and what it does?"

Carl Barron tells Gary:

"MagiC is a tos replacement compatible with tos, and offering many enhancements. There is also a tos clone for macs and one for wintels with a similiar name. MagiC, MagiCMac, MagiCPC or similar titles."

Gary asks Carl:

" Where can I get it and what does it cost and how easy is it to fit?"

Carl tells Gary:

"North America?
toad
computer direct
Europe
Systems Solutions [?]"

Fred Horvat tells Gary:

"MagiC is a complete replacement of TOS on the Atari computer. Besides being much faster on any Atari like 20% it also is truely multitasking. Most productivity software, newer software written after say 92 or 93 runs fine. Most games will not. But for games you can diable MagiC and play away. MagiC has it's own desktop that is different from GEM. You may not care for it. It's not horrible, but different. EASE, Thing, or NEOdesk will work with MagiC. I use and prefer EASE."

Well folks, that's about it for this time around. Tune in again next week, same time, same channel, and be ready to listen to what they are saying when...

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

EDITORIAL QUICKIES

When a man steals your wife, there is no better revenge than to let him
keep her.

- Sacha Guitry

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